

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 18, 21-23, 29-31 and 34-39 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3-6, 8-14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24-28, 32 and 33 are canceled, claims 1, 2, 21, 35 and 36 are amended and new claims 38 and 39 are added.

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claims 8 and 26 contain patentable subject matter.

I. Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the title. The title is amended to obviate this objection.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claims 21, 35 and 36 due to informalities. Claims 21, 35 and 36 are amended to obviate this objection.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 7, 15, 18, 21-23, 29, 30 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,753,939 to Jisaki et al. and claims 1, 2, 22, 29-31 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0055082 to Kubo et al. These rejections are moot.

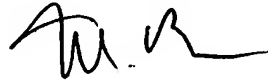
Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to incorporate the features of claim 8, indicated as being patentable. New claims 38 and 39 correspond to original claims 1 and 2 respectively and include the features of claim 26, indicated as being patentable.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MB/kzb

Date: July 14, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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